

THE STATE OF THE UNION:

Researching the European Semester – A key policy coordination tool operating under the European Union



University
of Victoria

Key Projects:

1. Reviewing news coverage from select publications on the European Semester from 2011-present
 - Work is available on the EUROSEM UVic Website
 - Goal to create accessible information page for a non-academic audience
 - Helped me to familiarize myself with the EUROSEM
2. Creating summary sheets on Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) from 2019-2021, to include any assessments by the EU on progress made for each country
 - Analyzing each member states implementation of CSRs as laid out by the European Union
 - Centralized information about progress for each member, separated by category (fiscal/economic, or social)
3. Literature reviews on federal processes for Canada, the U.S., and Switzerland
 - Undergoing a thorough review of existing academic work, with the purpose of comparing any historical policy mechanisms in federal states to current processes within the EU, specifically the EUROSEM
 - In Canada, assistance is mostly fiscal; EU shifting towards social assistance as well
 - In USA, hierarchal federalism does not always result in high level of coordination
4. Creating draft narratives on all EUROSEM grant outcomes/deliverables
 - Project summaries for the 2.5-year grant – the grant is from the Jean Monnet network, based in Europe
 - Separated into "planned" and "implemented" activities
 - Including my work on news coverage re: EUROSEM
 - As well as published and soon-to-be published academic works
 - Includes paper of visiting doctoral student on which I gave editorial and argumentation assistance on

Key Concepts:

European Semester (EUROSEM), Country-Specific Recommendations

My Role:

- Research Assistant (early-stage research)

Main Takeaways:

Enhanced Research Skills:

- Sometimes prompt given was unclear, had to work around it
- EUROSEM is a new mechanism, so there is not much existing academia to work with – had to be creative
- Had to be thorough and patient in research, first result not always best
- Gives me an advantage going into second year – thanks to this work

Improved Independent Study Management:

- Meetings for weekly tasks on Monday mornings – Learned how to better spread-out work, and decide what should take priority
- Deadlines to meet with no direct oversight helped me to create a healthy and balanced schedule – with my 25-hour/week job on the side

Professional Communications and Connections

- Worked with scholars from Europe, and was in near constant communication with supervisor(s)
- Provided me contacts and service support with UVic – support has always been there, but this gave me the opportunity to utilize them
- Internship has provided me with long-term academic and professional contacts – These are important to have and to maintain

Bibliography:

University of Victoria. (n.d.). UVic logo [Logo].

<https://www.uvic.ca/brand/templates/logos/uvic-logo/index.php>

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